

CHAPTER 120

August 20, 2011

"Funny, I remember this festival being a lot more crowded... is it because of the murders?"

The guys had all been gathered at the summer festival, waiting for the girls to show up because apparently they all decided to go to the bathroom at the exact same time or something. Seriously, where the hell were they right now? Ah well; gave Justin a chance to eat the candied apple he bought. He didn't really like apples, or fruit in general; but he did like candy and caramel, so it was alright in the end. Still, it seemed the others were getting a little impatient. I mean, they were here at the festival, just standing there like idiots. Guess they should have bought some food like Justin; then they'd have something to preoccupy himself.

"Yeah, there ain't that many people here this year. Well, I guess you can't blame people for being scared... Haven't seen the reporters around, either. They sure are good at stirring shit up and then disappearing." Kanji mused allowed as to the matter of the small crowds. Justin couldn't really see these kinds of things being more crowded honestly; seemed like they had just the right amount. Plus, Justin highly doubted it had to do with the murders; I mean, they already made a formal statement that the murderer had been apprehended. There was nothing left to be scared of.

"Yeah, well; that's the media for you." Justin remarked snidely, pointing his candy apple at Kanji, spinning his cane into the dirt with his other hand. He had been tapping out the rhythm of Bulls on Parade with it earlier, but the others just got annoyed of it, so he eventually stopped. Kanji shrugged after a moment. It really didn't matter where the media was; they were here and that's all that mattered.

"Well, it ain't so bad to have thin crowds. What IS important right now is that we go get some ikayaki!" Kanji shouted with determination. Justin had no idea with ikayaki was, but it sounded like as good a plan as any, so why the hell not? Teddie seemed to be just as enthused to grab some ikayaki; and just as confused as to what it actually was.

"Ooh, I wanna get some too! Kanji, what's ikayaki?"

"Man, they're late... Why were they meeting up at Yukiko's house in the first place?" Yosuke questioned, a grimace on his face. This was just plain annoying; what could they possibly have needed to meet up at Yukiko's house for. The festival was here, dammit. Justin raised his eyebrow slightly. It seemed people just loved to keep him out of the loop on this stuff; no one ever told him they were all meeting at Yukiko's house. He wished he had known that before wondering why every single one of

them was running late. Though to be fair; he should have known something was up when Maya wandered off on the way over to the festival. It wasn't like she knew any shortcuts.

"They'll show up sooner or-" Kanji slowly started to trail off, his eyes widening, his mouth opening slightly ajar. Something had clearly distracted Kanji, though as to what, Justin hadn't the slightest clue. And rather than just look in the same direction as Kanji, he decided to wave his hand in front of Kanji's face; snapping once or twice to snap him out of his daze. Kanji didn't so much as flinch.

"Whoa, isn't that them?" Teddie suddenly remarked allowed. Oh, that's what must have caught Kanji's attention. Though why was he... Oh. Justin turned his gaze away from Kanji for only a brief moment to be met by the sight of all of the girls approaching them dressed in yukata. His jaw instantly dropped, along with the candied apple in his hand; his grip loosening to allow it to fall into a sloppy mess on the ground. Holy... Fuck.

"Sorry we took so long." Chie apologized, a wide grin on her face as they all slowly approached the guys. It was sort of hard to walk around in those things, so they had to move around slower. Her eyes slowly analyzed all of the guy's expressions, just to get a good idea of how well their 'surprise' worked. Pretty damn well apparently. You thought Justin's reaction was a little much? You should have seen Yosuke when he spotted both Maya AND Rise in yukata. Pinch him, he must be dreaming. Maya just seemed very uncomfortable at the moment; clearly not accustomed to wearing that stuff. The others weren't either, but they sure as hell had worn it more than Maya. Honestly, she kind of felt dirty walking around in this thing. It was like wearing a bathrobe out in public, only thinner; at least... that's how it felt to her.

"It took us some time to get dressed." Yukiko explained. Not that the guys were really questioning why they were running so late by this point. Justin had to forcibly press his jaw back into place using his hand, lest they get the idea that he was a pervert. He totally was for the record; just a very subtle one.

"You have to wrap towels inside, so they're not as breezy as everyone says." Rise remarked. Maya made a slight groan from where she was standing. That was probably the worst part of this entire thing. It was uncomfortable. So on top of felling like she was walking outside wearing pretty much nothing, she was physically uncomfortable with her attire as well. She got tradition and all that crap, but this just struck her as weird. She was just hoping the guys were used to this kind of stuff; then it might feel a little less awkward and a little more... well; socially acceptable.

"This is so embarrassing..." Maya whispered under her breath. Rise promptly jabbed her softly with her elbow. She had been complaining about it the entire time; she could kindly shut up right about now. Besides; appearances were everything. If she

didn't act like she liked it, it kind of ruined the entire point of putting these things on. Not that Yosuke was that picky anyway; but you know how that goes.

"It's kinda hard to walk." A much tinier voice choked up. The guys shifted their view slowly down to the spot next to the girls. They hadn't even noticed Nanako was with them. Also wearing yukata if I might add. Who would have thought that Nanako would bitch about the yukata less than Maya? How does it feel to complain more than a child? Yu smiled warmly at her; was nice to see her out of the house and having fun.

"You look cute in it." Yu remarked, a grin on his face. Nanako started to blush immediately, giggling slightly.

"Nana-chan, you look so cute! I'm head over heels for you!" Teddie added on... Only... Justin, kinda sorta thought he was serious. He might have been; who even knows? It wasn't the last time he had said something really kind of... uh... pedophilic. And given how much of a perv Teddie was, that was very much concerning.

"Ooookay; slightly creepy." Justin remarked, snapping himself out of his moonstruck daze at last. He was still completely awestruck by how beautiful Chie was; but you know... pedophilia might have taken priority over him getting a little hot under the collar. Besides; it probably helped in the long run that he had control over his mind. Didn't want to say anything stupid to this beautiful goddess of the night.

"Thank you." Nanako choked up over her giggles, very much flattered by Teddie's remark. She was a little too young to understand why what he was saying was disgusting in every way. In a way, her blissful ignorance was absolutely adorable. But just you wait; five or six years from now, she's going to randomly remember this day and be like... *Holy shit, what a pedo. Why did I hang out with the guy, holy shit.*

"How do we look, Senpai? Does the sight make your heart skip a beat?" Rise questioned, turning to the guys, a flirtatious expression on her face. Even Justin would admit Rise looked stunning in that; and Rise wasn't even close to Justin's type. A fact Rise seemed to be all too aware of as she tried to coax the guys out with into admitting it with a flirtatious pose of her head and sensual tone to her voice. Justin stared at Chie, then at Rise, then back to Chie again, before dropping down on one knee.

"Marry me."

"Wha-!? Cut it out!" Chie croaked loudly, her cheeks turning pink with embarrassment and flattery. Enough to make Justin fall to his knee; even if he was just being sarcastic... Damn; she must have pulled that look off nicely. Still; would have been nice if he didn't do that in front of everyone. Especially Nanako, who had

actually thought Justin was serious for a moment. That could have gotten awkward fast. "Sheesh, how embarrassing..." Yosuke gave Justin a funny stare as he slowly pushed himself up from the ground, a shrug on his shoulders, before turning to see Kanji purposely turning around to face the other direction. The fuck was wrong with him?

"Kanji? What're you looking away for? Don't tell me you're ashamed to look! What are you, a monk...?" Yosuke mocked Kanji. You couldn't see his face, but you could see the slight recoil of his head to indicate he was more than a little caught off-guard by that question. He wasn't ashamed! Not at all!

"Th-That ain't it!"

"Ahaha! You're so cute, Kanji." Rise giggled, a flirtatious tone to her voice. Oh so apparantly she now had a thing for Kanji. Justin couldn't even keep up with this girl anymore. First she's pretending she's going to marry Justin; then she's got the hots for Yosuke, then she's trying to lay the moves on Kanji. *MAKE UP YOUR MIND WOMAN! YOU ONLY GET ONE!*

"Hey... Thanks for looking after her." The all too familiar voice of Dojima's uncle called out. Seemed he had been the one to bring Nanako to the festival; not the girls. Justin once again started to panic, pushing his hands into his pockets to keep a firm grasp on his cigarettes. Just in case. Dojima gave him a slightly suspicious glare before turning his attention back to the group, and of course his daughter.

"They bought me cotton candy!" Nanako shouted with cheer; satisfied with the bounty she had managed to reep from the other girls. And that was why the older kids were so cool; always buying her snacks and stuff. Who wouldn't want older friends like the investigation team? Well except maybe Justin. Or Kanji. **BUT OTHER THAN THAT-**

"Did they now? Alright then, you wanna go over and do the target prac-I mean game with me?" Smooth Dojima. Well, regardless, Nanako was more than happy to go target prac- I mean, gaming with Dojima. Dojima grabbed her by the hand before turning his attention over to Yu, a wide grin on his face. "I'll take care of Nanako from here. It's only a few times a year that this town gets charged up like this. You kids should go and have fun." Dojima recommended before pacing off with Nanako. Everyone waved good bye to her. Especially Teddie; who was practically jumping as he did. It was quiet for a moment after she left. And that was more than enough to encourage Teddie's terrible ideas to spout out again.

"Hmmm, a summer festival... A couple walking together at a festival... Unused to wearing it, the girl's yukata comes loose... Summer has begun." Teddie mused allowed, a very perverted tone to his voice. Everyone started to give Teddie a slight glare, very annoyed that he was already going to start this shit. Save Maya, that is,

who had looked down at her own yukata. *This thing sure as hell feels loose... Oh god; please don't let that happen to me...*

"What kinda tagline is that...?" Chie questioned with irritation. Teddie soon adopted an official, stiff looking pose; as though he were some sort of general issuing an official proclamation. Mostly because he probably thought he was. Honestly, Justin wouldn't be surprised if he found Teddie in a general's hat and a cape a couple of years down the road. And maybe a Hitler moustache. MAYBE.

"We gotta go two-by-two! Raaaawr! See, I've been thinking. It's the summer, you're wearing yukata, and we're at a festival. It's just wrong for guys and girls to walk around in a huge group like this. We should couple up while we're here! It's the natural way of things!" Teddie explained his think process. It was dead silent as he finished his explanation, still standing there in that general-esque pose, eyes closed as he looked up towards the sky and raise his elbow out so that his hand was against the center of his chest. Justin was half waiting for an eagle to fly down and perch on his arm. After a moment of complete silence Kanji finally spoke up to ask what everyone was thinking.

"Wh-What the hell are you babblin' about!?"

"I'm with Teddie!" Rise spoke up. Yu had damn near choked up the cotton candy he had been eating. Justin actually got behind him, ready to do the Heimlich if it was needed. Yu was extra careful to make it clear he wasn't choking. He did NOT trust Justin to perform that maneuver in the slightest. "C'mon, Senpai... Why wear yukata in the first place? So we have memories we can remember fondly, right? So we should pair off right away!" She tried to explain her thinking process. Justin just continued to look at Rise like she was nuts. He wasn't opposed to the idea, but that seemed like some pretty strange logic.

"Rise... What a terrifying girl! You got a point, though... Good memories..." Chie spoke to herself, before turning her gaze over to Justin, cheeks pink, a smile on her face. Justin just rubbed at the back of his head. He had never been to a festival like this before; let alone with a girl. He sure as hell hoped that he wasn't going to fuck anything up. He probably would.

"I-I'm fine too. Oh, what I mean is, um... Count me in." Yukiko spoke up as well. Yu seemed a little surprised in all honesty; they didn't really do much alone by themselves... Maybe today would be different. Would be nice to get some one on one time with Yukiko for once. And with that all eyes turned to Maya, much to her disapproval and fear. *Goddammit you people, don't make me make that decision...*

"I... guess?" Maya choked up after a while, face red as the sun. Which is still orange, you idiot!

"Alright... Y-You guys decide how we'll split up." Chie choked up after a moment, turning back to the guys. Justin and Yu passed each other a glance to suggest that they were really confused. What, you mean we're not going together by default? I thought that was sort of the point of agreeing to this. Yosuke seemed much more pleasantly surprised. Justin was obviously going with Chie, Yu with Yukiko. That left Maya and Rise; either would be acceptable with Yosuke. Preferably Maya, of course; but walking around with a celebrity sounds fun too.

"Huh? Seriously? It's up to us? A-Alright..." Yosuke spoke up, before huddling everyone together. "Alright; so I'm guessing Justin's going with Chie, and Yu with Yukiko, right?" The two both nodded; seemed obvious to them. Yosuke quickly turned his attention over to Kanji. "Alright, so that means two of them and two of us. Got any picks Kanji?" Teddie tossed Yosuke a funny look. Justin and Yu noticed too, immediately recognizing the problem here. There were more guys than girls.

"Two guys? Aren't you missing one?" Teddie questioned with disappointment. He must have just been forgetting Kanji or something. Maybe he was just being a generous fellow and giving up his chance with a lady. Yosuke passed Teddie a confused look.

"What? Me and Kanji makes two."

"Whaaa!? You did that on purpose!" Teddie shouted, slightly angered by Yosuke's insolence. It was only just starting to dawn upon Yosuke that Teddie thought he counted. Oh that's rich. Teddie was a bear; he wasn't going to get anywhere with those girls. Better leave this to the people that could actually benefit from all of this. Kanji stared at the ground for a moment, musing to himself.

"Uhhh... Should I really do this?" Kanji thought aloud. He really didn't like any of the girls on the investigation team like that; he wasn't really going to get as into it as say Teddie was. Besides; last time he had gotten a nosebleed. No need to repeat that incident. Yosuke's mouth curved up into a smug smirk; seeing this as a great way to end the dispute before it even started.

"N-No way! I can look at 'em! It'll be a chinch, just you watch!" Kanji boasted, not taking Yosuke's shit. He had done alright on their babe hunt in Okina, right? He had no problem showing Yosuke how it was done. He'd walk the shit around with that girl, just you watch! Yosuke just shook his head though; not believing a word coming out of Kanji's mouth.

"Nah... You should bail, Kanji. It'd be best for everyone that way." Yosuke remarked plainly; he had already settled on Kanji sitting out. Nothing Kanji said to interject would change that; that much was for sure. Kanji just continued to glare at Yosuke, ready to prove just how well he would be able to put up with Rise's crap for an hour. Justin stared over his shoulders at the girls waiting for the guys to make up their mind. You would think it would be quicker, but apparently not. The girls were very

much confused; especially since they already knew who Justin and Yu's choices would be. Justin waved at Chie, and Chie in turn waved awkwardly back.

"Well, I've made my decision..." Teddie finally announced. Yosuke and Kanji just shot Teddie a glare; they didn't even know if Teddie was going to be involved! "I want Chie-chan and Yuki-chan and Rise-chan and Maya-chan for my partner." Teddie listed off every single girl. Everyone's jaws dropped; especially Justin and Yu's. What the hell Teddie; those two are NOT debatable!

"That's not a decision! Dude, you're the one who said we gotta pair off in the first place!" Yosuke scolded Teddie. If he wanted to take one of the girls fine; but he wasn't going to steal Maya AND Rise away from him. One or the other Ted.

"I ain't joking here, Ted! If you try and butt in on this-" Kanji chocked up through his teeth, ready to bash Teddie's skull in at any second. Ted of course was having none of that; he could manipulate Kanji if he wanted to. He was getting his share whether Kanji liked it or not. After all; it was his dream in life to score with all of those girls. Fucking pervert.

"That's right, Kanji! This is serious business! And you're a true man! A true man wouldn't be prancing around with other girls at a place like this! Kanji! This is a test to see if you can uphold your status as a true man!" Teddie exclaimed. Justin wasn't even sure whether not he should be pissed. Teddie knew how Kanji got about this kind of stuff; and yet here he was trying to manipulate the guy with it. And the sad part? It worked. Poor Kanji.

"Y-Yeah... You're right! Thanks, Teddie! You said it. Okay, count me out." Kanji declared, satisfied for some inexplicable reason. Why would he be happy to have been cheated out of his position? Oh right; Kanji. Not the sharpest tool in the shed, was he? Yosuke for some reason almost seemed offended that Kanji had fallen for that. If Kanji wanted out he was going to go out for his own reasons, not because of Teddie's trickery.

"Dude, come on! Don't fall for that!" Yosuke turned to Kanji, an expression of annoyance on his face. Meanwhile Teddie slowly approached the girls; perhaps deciding to take the initiative to pick his girl out since Kanji had forfeited his right.

"It's decided! I'm going with all of you!" Teddie loudly declared. That sure as hell stopped everyone dead in their tracks. Yosuke and Kanji turned away from their argument to glare at Teddie; Justin and Yu stood their jaws open. The motherfucker! Do you realize who you just screwed over?

"Huh? What's going on?"

"Oh, well, there were too many guys, so someone would have been left out... I just couldn't let that happen." Teddie spoke with a sympathetic tone of voice; trying to make this out like it was a hard decision. Not that that lasted for long Justin run up

from behind Teddie and tapped him on the shoulder. The minute he turned around he was met by an iron fist, and eventually the concrete ground below. The girls weren't even sure what was going on at this point. Justin cleared his throat as he tried to stiffen his posture slightly.

"My apologies ladies; Teddie is not an endorsed member of the Investigation team nor does he voice the opinions of Investigation Team incorporated. We apologize for the inconvenience." Justin remarked, stepping over the now bruised Teddie on the ground. He wasn't unconscious, but he was down for the moment. He slowly extended his elbow as he approached Chie, allowing her to wrap her arm around his, should she so choose. "Right this way madam." She blushed slightly before wrapping her arm around his, entangling the two together. Yu and Yukiko slowly followed Justin and Chie's lead, gripping each other by the arm. That left Yosuke and Kanji still pondering. After a moment Yosuke slowly approached the two remaining girls, extending his arm out.

"Care to join me madam?" Yosuke remarked, making a slight bow to Maya. Her face turned redder than a tomato almost instantly. He had picked her? But- Wha- Wasn't Rise still there? She could have sworn he had a thing for her. She slowly looked around the group, cheeks red hot with fear, embarrassment, and perhaps something more. She didn't know what to do. At least, until Rise jabbed her in the side to get her attention.

"Come on, do with him..." Rise whispered in Maya's ear. Now Maya was just really fucking confused. Rise was always flirting with Yosuke, and vice versa. When the hell did Maya get mixed into the middle of all of this. Still; if Rise was giving Maya her permission, then perhaps... Perhaps there WASN'T something between those two. A small grin started to form around the cracks of Maya's mouth.

"S-Sure." She remarked, extending her arm out to wrap it around Yosuke's arm. Yosuke was actually a little surprised that had worked; but then, it was probably only peer pressure doing it to her. Kanji nodded slightly, approaching Rise as Maya and Yosuke finished hooking arms together.

"Guess that leaves us." Kanji sighed slightly.

"Well gee, don't sound so happy about it!"

"Yesterday I wished you'd come to the festival with me. I can't believe it came true."

Chie had insisted the two made a stop at the shrine to make a wish or something. Probably was good luck during the Summer Festival or something. Chie seemed to believe there was some magic behind this place after all. Justin smiled at her a bit as the two slowly approached the shrine. Sometimes wishes do come true; even the

stupid ones like that. Like he wouldn't come to the festival with her without Chie making a wish on a star. There's nothing he would have rather been doing today.

"Hey, what are you going to wish for?" Chie questioned as they stopped at the shrine. Justin immediately took an upright position, making a slight salute.

"World domination." He exclaimed with a straight face. Chie gave him a light shove, much to his amusement. The two chuckled for a moment before Justin looked back down at the shrine offertory box. He rubbed his chin for a moment... What was there to wish for really. He had all he ever really wanted right here. Friends, love, the power to beat the hell out of people's inner demons... He couldn't think of much more he wanted. Except maybe to get his shadow out of his head. Oh if only the gods were that merciful. If they were, they would have saved Justin from himself ages ago. No; the gods had no plans on intervening with that. So then what could he wish for... "I guess just to be with you." Justin remarked, a smile on his face. Chie blushed. Hard.

"I... Wished for the same thing. Except I sorta added forever at the end." Chie nervously chuckled, cheeks glowing pink as her heart started to pound again. Justin's reaction was soon mimicking hers; heart racing, his cheeks burning hot as the words left her mouth. Forever was really what had done it for him. Not just; I want to be with you. I want to be with you forever. Forever... No, forever would not do. Forever was much too short. The two bowed their heads in a moment of silence, sending their wishes up to the heavens. Hopefully God would answer Justin's prayers for once in his life. When they finished, they turned back around, hand in hand as they walked back the stall coated path.

"Hey, why don't you two come over here? I've got the greatest candied apples in the world!" A stall vendor called out to the two as they walked by, stopping them mid trot. Chie seemed a little surprised by the vendor calling out to them; a little more so with Justin. You know how he got a round strangers.

"He's right you know." Justin remarked, swapping his gaze from the vendor over to Chie for a moment. That candied apple he was eating was just the best thing. And he didn't even like apples. Chie frowned for a moment, scratching at the side of her head as she considered it. She had one before the girls had all grouped up to meet with the guys; she didn't want to get cavities or anything.

"I don't know... I already had one today." Chie pondered aloud. Justin had to wonder WHEN she had gotten one; but he wasn't arguing. So long as she had fun with it, right? The vendor, as all vendors tend to do, wasn't going to take no for an answer though.

"Summer Festival only comes once a year young lady. How about it? Want to share a candy apple with your boyfriend?" The vendor questioned. Justin raised his eyebrow before staring down. Yep, still holding hands. That would explain it. He

probably should have let go knowing Chie wasn't a fan of people knowing this stuff in public, but really, he didn't want to. Besides; Chie didn't seem all that offended.

"H-He called you my boyfriend. But, wait... That's true." Chie pondered to herself. Justin chuckled slightly at how embarrassed she was getting over this. Or perhaps the fact that it was really just dawning on her that Justin was her boyfriend. They had been dating forever, but never, NEVER had she used the word boyfriend. Justin had used the word girlfriend once or twice, but not much. They loved each other, no doubt about it; but official titles like boyfriend and girlfriend... Kinda of felt good hearing it to be honest. "I'm not supposed to be nervous about this." Chie awkwardly chuckled. Justin shook his head a little bit before turning back over to the guy behind the counter.

"We'll take one." Justin remarked to the vendor, holding up his finger as though the vendor was incapable of putting the pieces together without explicit directions from Justin. Chie passed Justin a strange look.

"Huh? You're not getting one?" Chie questioned. Justin smiled a devilish grin, shaking his head in the process. He could be oh so sinister sometimes. Though he did have to wonder if this would work as well as say... a milkshake, or an ice cream cone.

"Yeah of course I am."

"But you only ordered- Oh. Oh!" Chie started to blush immediately, starting to get the implications. She wasn't sure how well that would work, or why they weren't just getting two, but she more than appreciated the gesture. She just hoped to god Justin wasn't going to get saliva all over the things. As if she had never gotten some of his saliva in her mouth before. Oh yes, the back of the movie theatre... They really should go back now that her ribs weren't a goddamn mess anymore.

"Here you go." The vendor remarked as he reached over to hand the candied apple over to Justin, a slight twitch of his eyebrow as though to let Justin know he was onto his little scheme. And a-okay with it to boot. This was the first time he had seen a couple share a candied apple in over fifteen years; it was a nice change of pace. Justin smiled as he grabbed hold of the apple, turning his attention towards Chie as they slowly departed.

"Let's go look around and see the other stands, too." Chie declared. Justin took a bite of the candied apple before passing it off to Chie. Somehow this idea was a lot less appetizing than it sounded at first. Romantic; not great for the stomach though. It was a moment before something in the distance caught Chie's eye, causing her to drag Justin with her by the hand. It was a wide, but low glass tank, full of fish.

"Oh hey; I remember these." Justin remarked, as Chie leaned over to peer into the tank, fascinated by the fish inside. He had to wonder why; fish really weren't that

interesting. They just kind of floated around and occasionally died. Still, he found himself peering inside along with Chie after a moment. "The goldfish always died." Justin remarked; probably not a great remark in retrospect, but Chie wasn't really interested in the fish anyway. No it was something else in the tank.

"These goldfish-fishing games always have a turtle swimming around in the bottom of the tank... Is that safe? I heard in science-class that pond sliders like eating fish when they're little." Chie spoke up with slight concern for the fish. Who would have thought that Chie would have a soft spot for goldfish? Well... She did apparently. Must be because she owned a dog. Justin rubbed his chin for a moment, before turning to the vendor.

"How much for a game?"

"200 yen." Damn that was cheap. Chie looked up at Justin, confusedly. What was he going to do, try to save a goldfish from a turtle? She wasn't ENTIRELY far off; he was certainly going to save the fish from the turtle... Just not one of them. Justin rolled up his sleeve as he extended his arm out, dipping it into the bottom of the tank, careful to navigate it around the fish as he reached towards the bottom of the tank, catching the turtle in his grip. Well you can imagine the vendor's and Chie's confusion as Justin pulled the turtle out of the pond. "Uh... Haven't seen that one before." The vendor remarked sarcastically, shaking his head slightly. He supposed Justin had technically caught something so it was fine; but damn, that was unexpected. He extended his other hand before placing the turtle on his feet, holding the small turtle in the palm of his hand, extending his finger to pat it on the head.

"Hey there little guy." Justin talked to the turtle, delicately stroking its head. Strangely, the thing seemed to be enjoying it. Must have been a whole lot better than swimming in that tank all day, that's for sure. Turtles still needed dry land, right? Chie slowly stood up from the tank to get a closer look at the turtle herself. In retrospect, it was kind of cute; for an old wrinkled turtle that is. Justin was happy enough with his prize anyway. He never really wanted a turtle, but looking at it now; he wasn't sure why not. Besides; Maya would appreciate it. Wonder how she was holding out with Yosuke. He probably spelt ketchup on her by now or something.

"Wow... I can't believe you actually caught that thing." Chie remarked with awe. She would have thought it would have tried to bite him. Nope, seemed relatively content in his palm. "You going to give him a name?" Chie questioned curiously. Oh that's right; he'd need to give the thing a name, huh?

"Chie 2." Chie glared at him slightly. If that was supposed to be flattering it wasn't. Justin chuckled after a moment, content with Chie's embarrassment. "I like Donatello."

"What, you mean like the Ninja Turtle?" Chie questioned. That was an interesting way of picking out a name for your pet; no doubt about it. She was a little surprised Justin would even pick the name of a turtle from a children's cartoon (apparently Chie never read the comics or watched those kickin' rad live-action movies.) But then; it was a turtle, and Ninja Turtles were pretty high up there with turtle related content.

"Yeah, why?"

"Why not Leonardo?" Chie questioned. That's who she thought of when she thought of the Ninja Turtles anyway. Katanas were superior to a stick at the very least. Justin just sort of passed her a dirty look; like she was out of her mind.

"Because my turtle ain't no kiss-ass." Justin remarked as the two slowly paced themselves away from the tank, admiring the turtle Justin had won. At least, that's how it had started. After a moment, Chie stopped dead in her tracks, as did Justin once he realized Chie had stopped walking beside him.

"I had a lot of fun today." Chie remarked, a smile on her face. Justin in turn smiled back, though he noticed that the smile on Chie's face had slowly started to fade. Something was bothering her. It wasn't related to the turtle or the festival; just something she had been thinking about lately. She wanted Justin's opinion on something, since it kind of pertained to him too. "Um... I've been meaning to ask this, but... I talk about meat all the time, and I ate a lot today too, but... Do girls who eat a lot turn you off?" Justin had been staring at the turtle this entire time, but his eyes immediately darted up at Chie as the question left her lips.

"Of course not!" Justin shouted, wrapping his fingers around the turtle as he dropped his hand to the side for a moment, extending the other to put it on her shoulder. He couldn't even believe she was asking that after all that had went down with Maya forcing herself to puke; forcing herself not to eat. If she was even CONSIDERING holding back on eating just for him, there was going to be serious problems. "It might be a pain on my wallet sometimes, but that's just who you are Chie. I wouldn't have ou any other way."

"Really? I'm so relieved!" Chie remarked, a sigh of relief on her breath. "...But I'm still gonna stop talking about meat all the time. Not everybody's as understanding as you!" Chie declared. Justin smiled faintly as he wrapped his arm around her shoulder, tugging her towards him, heads leaning against each other. He turned for only a brief second to plant a gentle kiss on her forehead. He could practically feel the heat being radiated from her cheeks. She closed her eyes for a moment, drifting way into bliss for a short moment.

"...Though if you don't mind, I guess it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks."